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Moreover, when we remember what unexplainable cases of inheritance occur, such as special movements during sleep, we must admit that even the tendency in a snake to incubate its eggs may also be transmitted, the more so as we have an indisputable inheritance of the same nature daily shown us in the case of birds, for the tendency of the parents to incubate their young is in all cases inherited by the offspring.

CLEMENT FEZANDIE.

686 Lexington Avenue, New York.

#### Another Ancient Argillite Quarry Near Trenton,

ON the left bank of Neshaming "Creek," Bucks County, Pennsylvania, about three-fourths of a mile above the mouth of Labaska or Mill Creek, I discovered at the base of the cliffs of metamorphosed slate that there overhang the stream, on June 23, another ancient work-shop where blocks of argillite, lying *in situ*, have been chipped into "turtle-backs."

A layer of chips, hammer-stones, and the now familiar rude leaf-shaped forms is laid bare for several hundred yards where the stream has worn away the margin. The blocks of workable stone in various instances show peckings upon their sides, as do similar specimens at Point Pleasant, inferably made by the ancient workmen to split them with the grain.

No search has yet been made for diggings and refuse-heaps higher up the slope, nor has excavation been made into the exposed layers; but thus far the story of the workings on Gaddis' Run, near Point Pleasant (Bucks County, Pennsylvania), discovered on May 22, seems to be repeated, though on a smaller scale. There we were twenty-five miles from Trenton; here we are but fifteen.

H. C. MERCER.

#### Do Nestlings Drink.

This question suggested itself to my mind very lately, when I observed the following, and to me, entirely new fact:

A piazza-roof, on which my windows open, is provided with a

shallow gutter, in which there is a considerable accumulation of the winged seeds from a neighboring tree. These were standing in shallow water, left there by the recent rains.

I observed a robin alight on the roof, and noticed that she picked from the gutter a bunch of those seeds, which she held in her bill while she seemed to be preparing to fly away.

Presently, apparently dissatisfied with what she had picked up, she dropped the seeds, and moving to a place where they were lying in a thicker bed, she gathered a much larger mass of them, about as many as her bill would hold together. After gathering them and satisfying herself that she had enough, she deliberately dipped the mass into the water and flew away with it to a distant tree. Perhaps some of your readers may suggest a truer explanation; but to me she seemed to be carrying a supply of water to her brood in what was no inadequate substitute for a sponge.

FRANCIS PHILIP NASH.

Geneva, N. Y., June 28.

#### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Logarithmic Tables.* By PROFESSOR G. W. JONES. Ames, Iowa, the Author.

THE title of this book does not exactly describe its contents. The strictly logarithmic tables are only about one-half of those given. The arrangement of the tables, of which there are eighteen, has been made to meet the wants of those who desire to have, in a handy form, tables to be used in computations covering a wide range. Table I. is a four-place, of numbers from 1 to 1,000, followed by one of the same accuracy giving the six principal trigonometric functions, and of the lengths of arcs in radians. The first five degrees of the quadrant are given to each five minutes, the following to each ten minutes, with differences for single minutes. A table giving the squares, cubes, square-roots, cube-roots, and reciprocals of the numbers 1, 2, 3, 99 is also given. Table III. is a six-place table of numbers, the side numbering being carried to only three figures instead of four, as is usual in

#### CALENDAR OF SOCIETIES.

Agassiz Scientific Society, Corvallis, Ore.

June 14.—Dr. Pernot, Aphasia.

#### Reading Matter Notices.

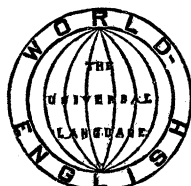
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#### THE MODERN MALADY; or, Sufferers from 'Nerves.'

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